

In the Claims

Please cancel Claims 1-20 and 29-33, and amend Claims 21, 24 and 25, and add Claims 34-38 as follows.

1 1. (Cancelled).

1 2. (Cancelled) .

1 3. (Cancelled) .

1 4. (Cancelled) .

1 5. (Cancelled) .

1 6. (Cancelled) .

1 7. (Cancelled) .

1 8. (Cancelled) .

1 9. (Cancelled) .

1 10. (Cancelled) .

1 11. (Cancelled) .

1 12. (Cancelled) .

1 13. (Cancelled) .

1 14. (Cancelled) .

1 15. (Cancelled) .

1 16. (Cancelled) .

1 17. (Cancelled) .

1 18. (Cancelled) .

1 19. (Cancelled) .

1 20. (Cancelled) .

1 21. (Currently Amended) ~~The device of Claim 1;~~ A device, for quantitatively collecting, preserving
2 and transporting a specimen of material for later analysis, which comprises:

3 a vessel having a first closed end defining at least one sealed access port, a second open end
4 opposite said first end;

5 a stopper shaped and dimensioned to close said open end;

6 a cover releasably occluding said sealed access port; and,

7 wherein said sealed access port is releasably sealed by a removable and replaceable plug.

1 22. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 21, wherein said plug is threaded to releasably
2 engage said first closed end having cooperative threads.

1 23. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 21, wherein said plug comprises a machine
2 graspable outer surface.

1 24. (Currently Amended) The device of ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 23, wherein said machine graspable outer
2 surface comprises a faceted surface.

1 25. (Currently Amended) The device of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 21, wherein said vessel has a tapered outer
2 surface.

1 26. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 25, wherein said tapered outer surface is oriented
2 to create a first axially medial surface portion having a narrower axial cross-section than a second

3 axially medial surface portion.

1 27. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 26, wherein said second axially medial surface
2 portion is located closer to said first closed end than said first axially medial surface portion.

1 28. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 25, wherein said tapered outer surface has a
2 substantially frustro-conical shape.

1 29. (Cancelled).

1 30. (Cancelled).

1 31. (Cancelled).

1 32. (Cancelled).

1 33. (Cancelled).

1 34. (New) The device of Claim 21, wherein said sealed access port comprises an end-breakable
2 hollow nib.

1 35. (New) The device of Claim 34, which further comprises a cover shaped and dimensioned to cap

2 said closed end and nib.

1 36. (New) The device of Claim 21, wherein the open end of said vessel and said cover have
2 cooperating screw threads.

1 37. (New) The device of Claim 21 which further comprises an outer transport capsule sized and
2 shaped to fully enclose said vessel, stopper, and cover.

1 38. (New) The device of Claim 21, which further comprises an amount of desiccant located in
2 said vessel.